

Fun, Beauty & Culture

Support Economic Growth



The leisure and hospitality industry provides a significant number of jobs, wages, and economic activity within Utah. Not only do Utahns enjoy the great beauty, diversity, and year round recreation, travel, and tourism activities within the state, but people flock here from all parts of the globe. The visitors to our ski resorts, national and state parks, historical sites, and festivals bring with them the income that sustains the economic vitality of many communities across the state.


Ten counties in Utah derive more than 15 percent of their nonfarm jobs from the leisure and hospitality industry (see Chart). For these counties, and others in the nonmetropolitan parts of the state, recreation, travel, and tourism activities are main economic drivers.

The great recession began officially in the U. S. in December 2007 and lasted through June 2009, at which point production of goods and services began to grow once again. December 2007 coincides with peak nonfarm jobs in the nation and in Utah. On a seasonally adjusted basis there were 1,264,500 nonfarm jobs in Utah in December 2007, dropping by 91,500 jobs or 7.2 percent, to 1,173,000 by February 2010. Notice that when production began to climb once again in July of 2009, jobs in Utah continued to decline and did not begin to grow until spring of 2010.

The leisure and hospitality industry fared somewhat better during the

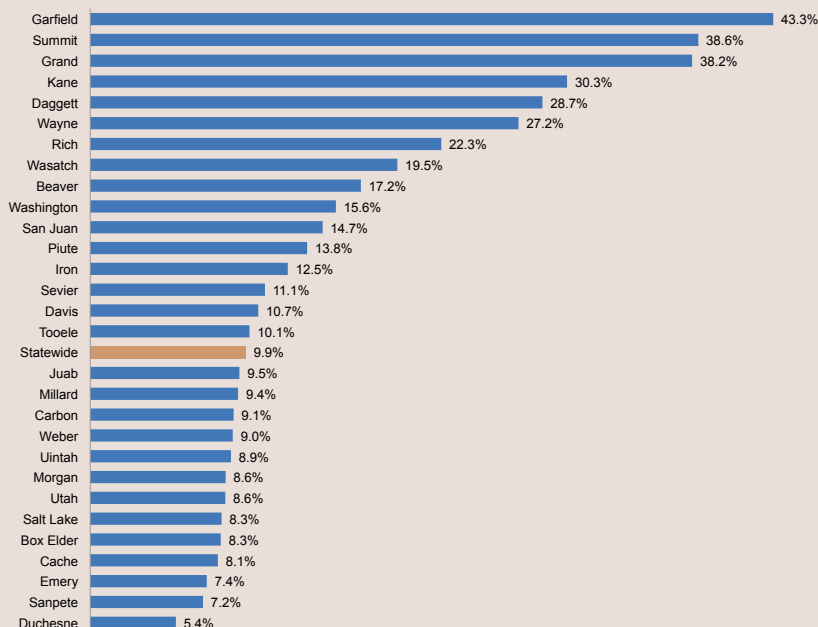
recession, shedding fewer jobs and recovering faster. Again on a seasonally adjusted basis, leisure and hospitality employment within Utah peaked in December 2007 with 115,900 jobs. This industry hit bottom in December 2009, at 109,400 jobs, a reduction from the peak of 5.6 percent. By August 2011, the leisure and hospitality industry was 0.9 percent or 1,000 jobs below the December 2007 record.

Total nonfarm jobs in Utah remain 3.7 percent below the pre-recession peak. The state will need an additional 46,500 jobs to return to the pre-recession level (see chart).

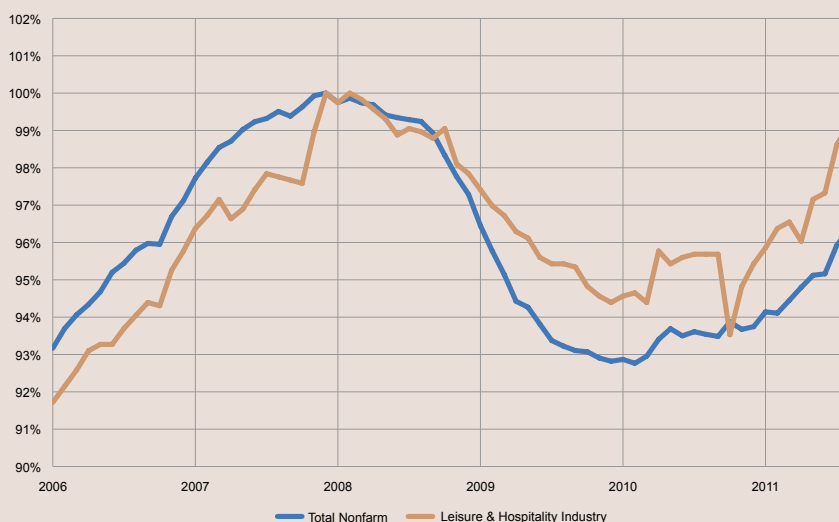
The leisure and hospitality industry gives important support to overall economic activity in Utah, helping to pull the State out of the recession and into a brighter economic future. The high quality of life enjoyed by residents and visitors alike is closely tied to this industry. 

Utah
citizens as well
as visitors enjoy
recreational activities
and generate income
to sustain our
economic vitality.

Percent of Nonfarm Jobs in Leisure and Hospitality by County • Average for the Year Ending in March 2011



Percent of Peak Employment • December 2007 Jan. 2006 through August 2011 (Seasonally Adjusted Data)



Source: Utah Department of Workforce Services.